



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FORMER SPRINGFIELD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to possessing child pornography.

**James Alan Sharer**, 53, formerly of Springfield, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England this morning to possession of child pornography.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Sharer** admitted that, between July 23, 2002, and Jan. 17, 2003, he possessed a computer hard drive containing three or more images of child pornography. **Sharer** received images of child pornography involving minor females engaged in sexually explicit conduct when he participated in certain computer “chat rooms,” Graves said. **Sharer** saved the images to the hard drive of the computer, which was owned by his employer.

**Sharer** knew there were at least 100 images of illegal child pornography on the computer’s hard drive, Graves said. Forensic computer analysis uncovered both still and movie images containing child pornography. Some of the images involve prepubescent children in sexually explicit activity, and some of the images of child pornography show the child bound and/or gagged. **Sharer** also admitted that he sent some images of child pornography to other individuals using IRC Chat or e-mail over the Internet, Graves added.

Under federal statutes, **Sharer** could be subject to a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose A. Barber. It was investigated by the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff’s Department, the National Center for Missing

and Exploited Children, and the Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)